

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 99-484

March 7, 2000

TELEGROUP, INC.
Request to Abandon Services

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST
TO ABANDON SERVICE

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

On June 1, 1999, Telegroup, Inc. (Telegroup) filed a request to abandon service pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1104(1). Telegroup was authorized to provide interexchange service in Docket No. 95-362. In support of its request, an affiliated Company, Primus Telecommunications, Inc., has stated that it will continue to provide service to Telegroup's current customers and that it will file a tariff containing Telegroup's current rates for those customers. Primus obtained authority to provide interexchange service as a switchless reseller in Docket No. 96-485.

The request to abandon service is granted, as Primus will continue to serve Telegroup's customers at the same rates and because there are a large number of competitive telephone utilities available to provide service to its former customers.

Section 1104 allows the Commission to impose reasonable conditions or requirements on the abandonment of service. In cases where one carrier has transferred its customer base to another carrier that has different rates, we have required notice of the changes to the affected customers. Such notice is not necessary in this case because Primus will provide the same rates as those previously provided by Telegroup.

Primus is not under any legal obligation to continue to provide any particular level of rates to the former customers of Telegroup, except that, as required by 35-A M.R.S.A. § 307, it must provide 30-days notice to the Commission for any rate change. In addition, Primus must provide notice to its customers, as required by Chapter 280, §10, of an increase in any rates that is 20% or more (or increases that cumulatively over the past year are equal to 20% or more).

On January 18, 2000, Primus filed a rate schedule page stating that TresCom's former rates would apply to former TresCom customers. That page was approved on February 7, 2000 under Docket No. 2000-44.

Therefore, we

ORDER

That the petition of Telegroup, Inc., to abandon service is granted; Telegroup, Inc. shall abandon service effective on the date of the transfer of its customer accounts to Primus Telecommunications, Inc.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 7th day of March, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis K, Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.